BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:)	
YOUSSEF LALEZARIAN, M.D.) File No. 11-2009-1997	47
Physician's and Surgeon's)	
Certificate No. A-38247)	
)	
Respondent)	
_	_)	

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on September 16, 2010.

IT IS SO ORDERED August 17, 2010.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

SHELTON DURUISSEAU, Ph.D.

Chair, Panel A

- 1			
1	EDMUND G. BROWN JR.		
2	Attorney General of California PAUL C. AMENT Secretaria a Department Attorney Concret		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General CHRIS LEONG		
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 141079		
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013		
6	Telephone: (213) 897-2575 Facsimile: (213) 897-9395		
7	E-mail: chris.leong@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant		
8		RE THE	
9	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
10	STATE OF C	CALIFORNIA	
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 11-2009-199747	
12	YOUSSEF LALEZARIAN, M.D.	OAH No. 2010010871	
13	165 S. Layton Drive Los Angeles, CA 90049	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND	
14	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 38247	DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
15	Respondent.		
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20	and the state of t		
21	the Board for approval and adoption as the final disposition of the Accusation.		
22	<u>PARTIES</u>		
23	1. Linda K. Whitney (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Board. The former		
24	Executive Director brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in this		
25	matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr., Attorney General of the State of California, by Chris Leong,		
26	Deputy Attorney General.		
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- Respondent Youssef Lalezarian, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Tracy Green, Esq., whose address is 801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1200 Los Angeles, CA 90017.
- 3. On or about April 12, 1982, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 38247 to Respondent. The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 11-2009-199747 and will expire on July 31, 2011, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 11-2009-199747 was filed before the Board and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on December 21, 2009. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 11-2009-199747 is attached as Exhibit A and is incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 11-2009-199747. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 8. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, complainant could establish a prima facie case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 11-2009-199747 and that he has thereby subjected his license to disciplinary action.
- 9. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of probation, or if the Board ever petitions for revocation of probation, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 11-2009-199747 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by respondent for purposes of that proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving respondent in the State of California.
- 10. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

- Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 12. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 38247 issued to Respondent Youssef Lalezarian, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for thirty-five months on the following terms and conditions.

1. <u>ETHICS COURSE</u> Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, respondent shall enroll in a course in ethics, at respondent's expense, approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Failure to successfully complete the course during the first year of probation is a violation of probation.

An ethics course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have been approved by the Boardor its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

2. <u>MEDICAL EVALUATION AND TREATMENT</u> Within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and on a periodic basis thereafter as may be required by the Board or its designee, respondent shall undergo a medical evaluation by a Board-appointed physician who shall consider any information provided by the Board or designee, and any other information the evaluating physician deems relevant, and shall furnish a medical report to the Board or its designee.

Following the evaluation, respondent shall comply with all restrictions or conditions recommended by the evaluating physician within 15 calendar days after being notified by the Board or its designee.

If respondent is required by the Board or its designee to undergo medical treatment,

respondent shall, within 30 calendar days of the requirement notice, submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval the name and qualifications of a treating physician of respondent's choice. Upon approval of the treating physician, respondent shall within 15 calendar days undertake medical treatment and shall continue such treatment until further notice from the Board or its designee.

The treating physician shall consider any information provided by the Board or its designee or any other information the treating physician may deem pertinent prior to commencement of treatment. Respondent shall have the treating physician submit quarterly reports to the Board or its designee indicating whether or not the respondent is capable of practicing medicine safely. Respondent shall provide the Board or its designee with any and all medical records pertaining to treatment that the Board or its designee deems necessary.

If, prior to the completion of probation, respondent is found to be physically incapable of resuming the practice of medicine without restrictions, the Board shall retain continuing jurisdiction over respondent's license, and the period of probation shall be extended until the Board determines that respondent is physically capable of resuming the practice of medicine without restrictions. Respondent shall pay the cost of the medical evaluation(s) and treatment.

Failure to undergo and continue medical treatment or comply with the required additional conditions or restrictions is a violation of probation.

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine until notified in writing by the Board or its designee of its determination that respondent is medically fit to practice safely.

3. <u>NOTIFICATION</u> Prior to engaging in the practice of medicine, the respondent shall provide a true copy of the Decision and Accusation to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to respondent, at any other facility where respondent engages in the practice of medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within 15 calendar days.

This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

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- 4. <u>SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS</u> During probation, respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants.
- 5. <u>OBEY ALL LAWS</u> Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in California, and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments and other orders.
- 6. QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.
- 7. PROBATION UNIT COMPLIANCE Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit. Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of respondent's business and residence addresses. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in respondent's place of residence.

Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's license.

Respondent shall immediately inform the Board, or its designee, in writing, of travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than 30 calendar days.

- 8. <u>INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD, OR ITS DESIGNEE</u> Respondent shall be available in person for interviews either at respondent's place of business or at the probation unit office, with the Board or its designee, upon request at various intervals, and either with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.
- 9. <u>RESIDING OR PRACTICING OUT-OF-STATE</u> In the event respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice, respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in Sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program outside the State of California which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall be considered as time spent in the practice of medicine within the State. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will relieve respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws and Probation Unit Compliance.

Respondent's license shall be automatically cancelled if respondent's periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California total two years. However, respondent's license shall not be cancelled as long as respondent is residing and practicing medicine in another state of the United States and is on active probation with the medical licensing authority of that state, in which case the two year period shall begin on the date probation is completed or terminated in that state.

10. FAILURE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE - CALIFORNIA RESIDENT

In the event respondent resides in the State of California and for any reason respondent stops practicing medicine in California, respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing within 30 calendar days prior to the dates of non-practice and return to practice. Any period of non-practice within California, as defined in this condition, will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term and does not relieve respondent of the responsibility to comply with the terms and conditions of probation. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall be considered time spent in the practice of medicine. For purposes of this condition, non-practice due to a Board-ordered suspension or in compliance with any other condition of probation, shall not be considered a period of non-practice.

Respondent's license shall be automatically cancelled if respondent resides in California

and for a total of two years, fails to engage in California in any of the activities described in Business and Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052.

- 11. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u> Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.
- 12. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u> Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of probation. If respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
- 13. <u>LICENSE SURRENDER</u> Following the effective date of this Decision, if respondent ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, respondent may request the voluntary surrender of respondent's license. The Board reserves the right to evaluate respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, respondent shall within 15 calendar days deliver respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its designee and respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation and the surrender of respondent's license shall be deemed disciplinary action. If respondent re-applies for a medical license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.
- 14. <u>PROBATION MONITORING COSTS</u> Respondent shall pay the costs associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Board, but may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California and delivered to the Board or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar year. Failure

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GREEN AND ASSOCIATES

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to pay costs within 30 calendar days of the due date is a violation of probation.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Tracy Green. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board.

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Youssef Lalezarian, M.D. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

13 14 DATED: Tracy Green 15 Attorney for Respondent 16 /// 17 111 18 /// 19 111 20 /// 21 /// 22 /// 23 /// 24 /// 25 ///

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STIPULATED SETTLEMENT (11-2009-199747)

to pay costs within 30 calendar days of the due date is a violation of probation. 1 **ACCEPTANCE** 2 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully 3 discussed it with my attorney, Tracy Green. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will 4 have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and 5 Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the 6 Decision and Order of the Board. 7 8 DATED: 9 YOUSSEF LALEZARIAN, M.D. 10 Respondent. I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Youssef Lalezarian, M.D. the terms and 11 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. 12 13 I approve its form and content. 14 DATED: 15 Attorney for Respendent 16 111 17 /// 18 /// 19 111 20 111 21 /// 22 /// 23 111 24 /// 25 /// 26 /// 27 /// 28 111 9

ENDORSEMENT The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs. Dated: 4210 Respectfully Submitted, EDMUND G. BROWN JR. Attorney General of California PAUL C. AMENT Supervising Deputy Attorney General CHRIS LEONG Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant LA2009508693 50657841.doc

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 11-2009-199747

FILED STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA EDMUND G. BROWN JR. SACRAMENTO TRECONDER 2/ 2000 Attorney General of California PAUL C. AMENT Supervising Deputy Attorney General 3 CHRIS LEONG Deputy Attorney General 4 State Bar No. 141079 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 5 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-2575 Facsimile: (213) 897-9395 6 E-mail: chris.leong@doj.ca.gov 7 Attorneys for Complainant BEFORE THE 8 MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS 9 STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 Case No. 11-2009-199747 11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against: 12 YOUSSEF LALEZARIAN, M.D. 165 S. Layton Drive ACCUSATION Los Angeles, CA 90049 13 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. 14 A 38247 15 Respondent. 16 17 18 Complainant alleges: 19 **PARTIES** Barbara Johnston (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity 20 1. 21 as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California (Board). 22 On or about April 12, 1982, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate 2. Number A 38247 to Youssef Lalezarian, M.D. (Respondent). This certificate was in full force 23 24 and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on July 31, 2011, 25 unless renewed. 26 27 28

Accusation

JURISDICTION

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

4 Section 490 of the Code states:

"A board may suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime, if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued. A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action which a board is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code."

5. Section 2227 of the Code states:

"...a licensee who is found guilty under the Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other action taken in relation to discipline as the Division¹ deems proper."

6. Section 2234 of the Code states:

"The Division of Medical Quality shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

California Business and Professions Code section 2002, as amended and effective January 1, 2008, provides that, unless otherwise expressly provided, the term "board" as used in the State Medical Practice Act (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 2000, et seq.) means the "Medical Board of California," and references to the "Division of Medical Quality" and "Division of Licensing" in the Act or any other provision of law shall be deemed to refer to the Board.

"(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting
the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter [Chapter 5, the
Medical Practice Act].

- "(b) Gross negligence.
- "(c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute repeated negligent acts.
- "(1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.
- "(2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.
 - "(d) Incompetence.
- "(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.
 - "(f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a certificate."
- 7. Section 2236 of the Code states:
- "(a) The conviction of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon constitutes unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act]. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction occurred.

. . .

- "(d) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction after a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section and Section 2236.1. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the conviction occurred."
- 8. California Code of Regulations. title 16. section 1360, states:

"For the purposes of denial, suspension or revocation of a license, certificate or permit pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the code, a crime or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a person holding a license, certificate or permit under the Medical Practice Act if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a person holding a license, certificate or permit to perform the functions authorized by the license, certificate or permit in a manner consistent with the public health, safety or welfare. Such crimes or acts shall include but not be limited to the following: Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of the Medical Practice Act."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of a Crime)

- 9. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 490, 2234 and 2236, subdivision (a) in that on or about August 7, 2008, he was convicted of a crime that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon. The circumstances are as follows:
- 10. On or about September 18, 2007, in the case entitled *The People of the State of California v. Youssef Lalezarian*, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BA327174, a Felony Complaint for Arrest Warrant was filed against Respondent. The complaint charged one count of paying unlawful rebates (Code § 650, subd. (a)). This felony Complaint will hereinafter be referred to as "the Complaint."
 - 11. Specifically, Count 1 of the Complaint alleged:
 - "During the time period beginning on December 24, 2004 through March 30, 2006, in the County of Los Angeles, State of California, defendant YOUSSEF LALEZARIAN, did while licensed under Division 2 of the California Business and Professions Code, unlawfully offer and deliver, a rebate, commission, preference, patronage, dividend, discount and other consideration as compensation and inducement for referring patients,

clients and customers to Jairo Gonzalez in violation of Business and Professions Code section 650(a), a felony."

- 12. On or about August 7, 2008, Respondent pled nolo contendere to Count 1 of the Complaint, which was reduced to a misdemeanor. The Court accepted the plea. The Court placed Respondent on summary probation for 20 months and ordered him to pay a fine and assessments totaling approximately \$6,220. Respondent's conviction was based on his conduct of paying approximately \$13,060 of unlawful rebates.
- 13. Respondent's nolo contendere plea on August 7, 2008, to one misdemeanor count of paying unlawful rebates as alleged in the Complaint, and the Court's acceptance of the plea, constituted a conviction of a crime that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon, within the meaning of section 490 and 2236 of the Code.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 38247, issued to Youssef Lalezarian, M.D..
- 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Youssef Lalezarian, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of the Code;
- 3 Ordering Youssef Lalezarian, M.D. to pay the Medical Board of California the reasonable costs, if placed on probation, for probation monitoring;
 - Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: December 21, 2009

BARBARA JOHNSTON

Executive Director

Medical Board of California

Department of Consumer Affairs

a here Through For

State of California

Complainant

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